

I am disheartened about how divided our country has become due to the current administration's policies. It deeply saddens me when I think about the strangle-hold big corporations have on domestic and foreign policy. The "average Joe citizen" of today and tomorrow are paying and will pay the price of our current political policy.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation is an example of how big business is pushing their own interest on to the shoulders of every American. Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.